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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/731,170	12/06/2000	Shoichiro Usui	USUI-12N	9121

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EXAMINER

LUGO, CARLOS

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

3627

DATE MAILED: 02/06/2002

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/731,170

Applicant(s)

USUI, SHOICHIRO

Examiner

Carlos Lugo

Art Unit

3627

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 10 January 2002.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1 and 4 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 2 and 3 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1 and 4 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 06 December 2000 is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☒ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☒ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____ 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

1. Claims 2 and 3 are withdrawn from consideration as being drawn to a non-elected invention (Paper No. 9).

Drawings

2. The drawings are objected to as failing to comply with 37 CFR 1.84(p)(5) because they include the following reference sign(s) not mentioned in the description:

- Elements in Figures 6-8 are not disclosed in the specification.

A proposed drawing correction, corrected drawings, or amendment to the specification to add the reference sign(s) in the description are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Specification

3. The specification is objected to because of the following informalities:
 - In Claim 1 Line 1, it should be "comprising a connecting head, having a reduced diameter".

Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

4. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:
 - The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter, which the applicant regards as his invention.
5. Claim 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, -second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Claim 1 recites the limitation "formed as a truncated cylindrical or truncated spherical seat surface" in lines 5 and 6. Because of the alternative language, the meters and bounds of the claim cannot be determined.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

6. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) The invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

7. Claims 1 and 4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Pat. No. 5,402,829 to Takikawa et al (Takikawa).

Takikawa discloses a high-pressure metal pipe (element 1) comprising a connecting head (element 2), having a reduced diameter, having a sleeve (element 3) covering the outer circumferential surface of the connecting head. The outer circumferential surface of the connecting head is formed as a truncated cylindrical or truncated spherical seat surface to mate a seat (located in element 6). The connecting head is located on an end portion of a steel pipe (element 1), having a smaller diameter than the diameter of the connecting head. The connecting head is provided, at the inner portion, with an annular concave groove.

Conclusion

8. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

The following patent are cited to be added to the applicant list for further show the state of the art with respect to pipes connections:

- U.S. Pat. No. 193,993 to Pennie
- U.S. Pat. No. 1,862,833 to Stover
- U.S. Pat. No. 1,982,533 to Parker
- U.S. Pat. No. 3,025,086 to Mosely
- U.S. Pat. No. 4,900,180 to Takikawa
- U.S. Pat. No. 5,423,581 to Salyers
- U.S. Pat. No. 5,70,413 to Salyers
- U.S. Pat. No. 5,903,964 to Uematsu
- U.S. Pat. No. 5,957,507 to Asada
- U.S. Pat. No. 5,979,945 to Hitachi
- U.S. Pat. No. 6,070,618 to Iwabuchi

9. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Carlos Lugo. The examiner phone number is (703)-305-9747, the fax number is (703)-308-3691 and the examiner email is the following: carlos.lugo@uspto.gov. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday to Friday from 8:00am to 5:00pm. If the examiner is not available, please leave a message, including the application number and the examiner will answer the message as soon as possible.

January 31, 2002

Katherine Matecki
KATHERINE A. MATECKI
PRIMARY EXAMINER